

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0030672 to Honda et al. (hereinafter “Honda”).

Claims 4-6 are allowed.

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Applicants have amended claim 1 in order to differently describe embodiments of the disclosure of the instant application. Accordingly, claims 1-6 remain currently pending and under consideration.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Honda. Applicants have amended claim 1 in order to differently describe embodiments of the disclosure of the instant application. To the extent that the rejections might be deemed to still apply to the claims as newly-amended, they are respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Applicants provided detailed arguments traversing the outstanding rejections in the previously-filed response that was originally filed on March 15, 2007 in this application. While these arguments still apply in the instant application, Applicants have decided to implement an additional amendment to independent claim 1 of the instant application in accordance with a helpful suggestion provided by the Examiner at pages 3-4 of the Office Action dated May 23, 2007. In particular, in response to Applicants’ previously-filed arguments, the Examiner noted at

pages 3-4 of the Office Action that claim 1 “does not state that each subfield only has one emission period during which light emission takes place continuously, and therefore Honda et al. still anticipate the claim language.” In accordance with the Examiner’s comments and helpful suggestion in this regard, Applicants have newly-amended independent claim 1 to describe that “each said subfield includes [[an]] only a single emission period during which light emission induced by sustain discharge takes place continuously.” Accordingly, as Applicants have adopted the Examiner’s suggestion, and in light of the Examiner’s comments in the Office Action, as quoted above, with regard to Honda, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections based on Honda should now be withdrawn.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) should be withdrawn because Honda does not teach or suggest each feature of independent claim 1, as amended. As pointed out in MPEP § 2131, “[t]o anticipate a claim, the reference must teach every element of the claim.” Thus, “[a] claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. Of California, 2 USPQ 2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987).” Furthermore, Applicants respectfully assert that dependent claims 2 and 3 are allowable at least because of their dependence from newly-amended claim 1, and the reasons set forth above.

The Examiner is thanked for the indication that claims 4-6 are allowed.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing discussion, Applicants submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request the timely allowance of these claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative to expedite prosecution. A favorable action is awaited.

EXCEPT for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0573. This paragraph is intended to be a **CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME** in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3).

Respectfully submitted,

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